Aurora, Nebr.,
April 20, 1923

Dear Mr. Crane:

I am enclosing the notes, hope they will help, tho I do not consider them very interesting! The advance sheet of the Rutland Herald came today. It is fine. I have not seen Middlebury since 1890. I attended my friend Harred Ballou's commencement at that time. In fact, I have been home to New Hampshire only twice since my marriage

I took the boys in 1901 and the girls in 1913. I should like some of my children to be trained at Middlebury; but the distance is too great. Propinquity decides a good many things. I am sorry not to be able to send pictures of my family. They are really quite presentable. I do not know much about "popular feeling about education" as it was in my youthful days. In our vicinity, it was the thing to get what education we could. I suppose my people encouraged me to, at any rate. I presume I did not read the papers much then. Certainly I had not read Browning's line "Ignorance is not innocence but sin." I am trying to get time to read Bryce's two vols - "Modern Democracies," but am still sinfully ignorant of most of it.

Please let me know if I can help in any way.

Yours truly

(Mrs. J.A.) Belle Chellis Dorsey

I did not expect to go to college as Dartmouth, eleven miles from my home, did not admit girls. But after I graduated from Kimball Union Academy and attended a year at Mt. Holyoke, Prof. Lewis Austin (who had been a former teacher of music at Meriden, N.H.,) wrote my mother that Middlebury had opened its doors to women and that he wished I would enter. They wanted some in the Freshman class.

When I entered college in the fall of 1853 Dr. Cyrus Hamlin was President. He had been at the head of Robert College in Constantinople and we enjoyed getting him to talk of the Crimean War, instead of sticking to our French recitation. He told many interesting things. I remember he had ovens made, and baked bread for the English soldiers.

The boys of our class on completing the course in "Analytics," hung "Anna Lyt" in effigy one morning in chapel. Dr. Hamlin thot it was to ridicule the girls, and we three had to explain that it was simply a joke. He was always kind and fair, but I had a feeling that he did not really care to have us there.

The faculty were not going to require us to do the regular Rhetorical work that the boys had, but we three insisted that we ought to do it just the same. At the end of my Freshman year I much pleased to receive the $5.00 gold prize offered by Prof. Eaton for the highest rank in Greek. That winter he had taught me to skate on Otter Creek, and no matter how wildly my skates moved, he was never tripped. I still treasure a little pebble he gave me which he picked up in Greece, on the shore at Marathon. The following letter was with it.

Κυρία Μ. Β. Χέλλις,

~~Τῆς Κυρ~~ Ταύτην τὴν ψῆφον ἀπὸ τῆς κυματωγῆς τοῦ ἐν τῇ Ἑλλάδι Μαραθῶνος ὑπὸ ἀπαχθεῖσαν θέλω, εἰ σοὶ βουλομένῃ ἔσται ὡς γενεθλίαν δόσιν δοῦναι.

Σὸς ἀληθινὸς φίλος

Τ. Τ. Ἔατον.

It was great fun for us three girls of the Freshman class to furnish a study room in the old chapel building. Our friends gave us twenty five dollars, some chairs and a mirror. We made twenty five by a Dickens entertainment. We atoned for our high priced wall paper

by papering the room ourselves, (except the ceiling) We painted the woodwork, and put down a Brussels 9 ingrain carpet, bought cushions and curtains and a felt cover for the long table, and then had a reception with Mrs. Prof. Brainard as chaperon. There were no dormitories for girls then nor secret societies.

During part of the four years I taught at Black River Academy, a boy named Calvin Coolidge was among the students. Several of the boys and girls I taught afterward entered Middlebury.

Ernest went to teach, married a Vermont man, who is at present Supt of Schools in Aurora, We have five children. The two oldest have taken the Engineering course at the Univ of Vermont, the oldest is now teaching in the Engineering College of Texas, and taking advanced work of the older Professors, hoping to enter Boston Tech, or some other School of Engineering. The next boy is working for the Gen. Electric Co. at Schenectady, N.Y. One girl started in last fall at the Univ of Vermont, and the two youngest are still in High School.

I am interested in club work in my town and State, and in the League of Women Voters.

The following quotations indicate my view of the value of a college education.

"The constituents of a sound education are first, character - second, culture - third, critical power, (including accuracy and sympathy with the various ages, nationalities and moods of men.) and fourth, - power to work hard under rule and pressure."

[The other is from an article entitled "The Junior Member" in Sat. Eve. Post, Oct. 25, 1919.]

"Hungrily Cousens ran thru the pamphlets, courses of study, particularly those on history, English, and philosophy. These were not to him mere courses of study: they were invitations to join the group of thinking men who see life steady and see it whole. They were opportunities for a man to link himself up with the past, to interpret the present, and reach forward toward the future. Without an intelligent conception of what has gone before, a man today was no more than a grub worm burrowing aimlessly in the unilluminated earth, feeding on mud with all the glories of the real world lying concealed above him. That was all he had been doing, - feeding on mud that the world called money. And four short years would have taken him out of the earth and given him wings. Then he could have grubbed safely because it would have been a mere incident."